

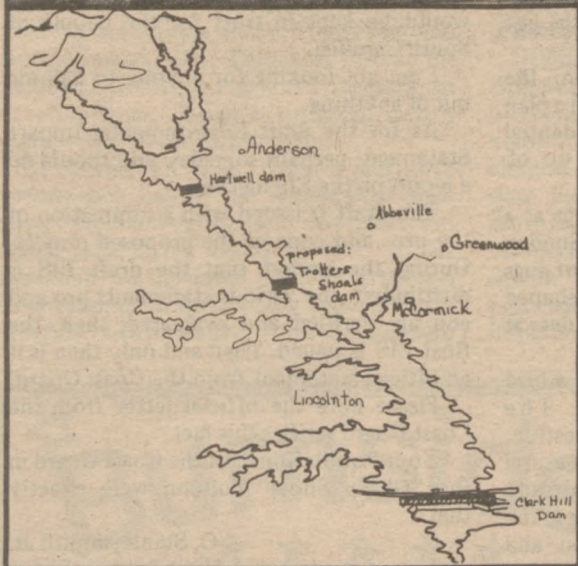
SOUTH CAROLINA'S NEWSWEEKLY

December
Twenty-F

OSCEOLA

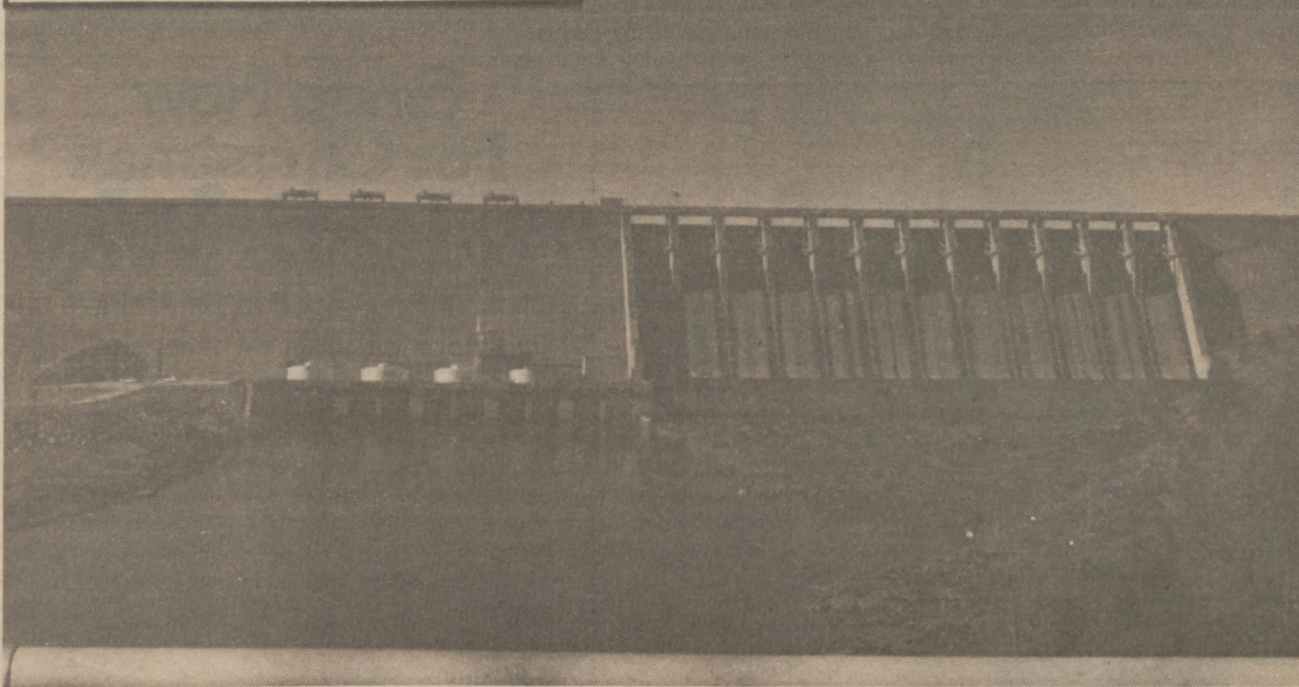
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From here...



The placid Savannah River, near the proposed location of the Trotters Shoals project

...to there?



Farther up the Savannah, Hartwell Dam near Anderson symbolizes the effects that huge hydroelectric projects can have.

Trotters Shoals: Future shock?

by Dick Harpootlian
and John Hughes Cooper

It's a desolate land -- red clay soil covered by groves of scrub pine waiting to be clear-cut by the lumber companies which own most of this territory. The clear-cutting process utilizes huge bulldozers and earth-movers, which knock down and rip up everything in their paths. Cut-over areas resemble grotesque battlefields. Huge trees lie uprooted and the red soil is laid open with deep gashes. Environmentalists decry this clear-cutting process, because of the attendant destruction of wildlife habitat, rampant erosion of fertile soils, and choking siltation of integral waterways.

But the environmentalists' worries about the clear-cutting will soon be irrelevant, at least in reference to this particular plot of 29,000 acres bordering 29 miles of the Savannah River in western South Carolina near McCormick and Abbeville. Because, if everything continues according to plan, much of that 29,000 acres will be 100 feet under water.

The Richard B. Russell Dam at Trotters Shoals on the Savannah River will create the third reservoir in less than 100 miles of the river's length (Clark Hill and Hartwell Reservoir are the others). The Trotters Shoals project will cost American taxpayers approximately a quarter of a billion dollars. Its purpose is to foster economic development of the Savannah River Valley, one of the most economically deprived sections of the United States. Yet the project is opposed by a broad front of politicians, economists, citizen groups, and environmentalists. All these people say the project is a boondoggle of tremendous proportions and that if it is constructed, not only will \$250 million of the taxpayers' dollars be wasted, but it will ruin any chance for the people of the Savannah River Valley to improve themselves economically.

There are basically two forces at work to keep the project viable. First is the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers which, like some sort of juggernaut, cannot be diverted from the goal, no matter how much circumstances change. The second powerful force, and perhaps the most significant, is lame-duck Congressman William Jennings Bryan Dorn of the third congressional district. Dorn admits the decision he made to support the project in 1966 was based on circumstances which have changed and many reasons which are no longer valid. But Dorn made a "deal" of sorts back then and it's too late now to change his position.

The history of the proposed dam project dates back to 1935 when the Army Corps of Engineers made its first study of the Savannah River Basin and designated 18 sites

(continued on page four)

osceola

"Freedom of the press is guaranteed only to those who own one."

—press critic A.J. Liebling

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Cheap Shots

Doing the liaison flap

Senator Fritz Hollings has raised a flap recently about South Carolina's "liaison" office in Washington. Hollings contended that the state is wasting the nearly \$100,000 it pays each year to Thomas Bendorf, a Washington lobbyist, to help South Carolina in its dealings within the complex maze of federal agencies, which occasionally allot funds back to the state for local use.

Governor John West has responded to Hollings' criticism with some irritation, implying that the state wouldn't need a liaison office if Hollings (and other elected representatives in Washington) would do their job.

It's not the first time the practice of having a Washington lobbyist has been criticized. And Bendorf, who was just admitted to the South Carolina Bar Association, is expected to open a law firm in partnership with Governor John West (among others) after West leaves office in January. The West-Bendorf firm is expected to have offices in Hilton Head, Camden, Columbia and Washington, D.C.

One source in Washington told *Osceola* that Bendorf is expected to become a member of what is called the "Tuesday-Thursday Club." By that it is meant that he will commute to Washington each Tuesday to take care of lobbying duties and then return to South Carolina on Thursday when most Congressmen and Senators leave town for the weekend.

Bendorf's clients in the past have included Lockheed Aircraft and the state of California, so with his contacts "on the Hill" and West's contacts in South Carolina we may witness the birth of South Carolina's most powerful law firm.

The race for Edwards' seat

In an effort to update a past Cheap Shot (November 22 edition) and at the same time to correct a typographical error, here is a rundown on who is in the running for the race for the State Senate seat vacated by governor-elect Jim Edwards.

Former state representatives Arnold Goodstein and James Condon, Charleston

alderman and dentist Gordon Stein and black attorney George Payton have announced their candidacies.

Observers in Charleston figure the race will be a political bloodbath with a faction headed by long-time Charleston mayor Palmer Gaillard backing Stein, and an anti-Gaillard faction headed by attorney Bill Ackerman splintering between Goodstein and Condon, both of whom exhibited some liberal tendencies while in the state House of Representatives. Of course, Payton's entry into the race recently will likely take black support from the more liberal candidates.

We reported last time that Marvin Chernoff, former Pug Ravenel campaign strategist, would be managing Condon's campaign. After later talking to Chernoff, however, we learned that he will only be handling Condon's efforts in the public relations area. "I'll basically be handling television," Chernoff said.

So far all of the entries are Democrats.

But Republican housewife Gwen Bush, who ran unsuccessfully against U.S. Senator Fritz Hollings in the recent general election, also is reputed to be contemplating a race. She told *Osceola*, "I haven't made up my mind yet. I'll have a decision after Christmas."

One of the more interesting aspects of this race is that everyone in Charleston expected Gordon Stein to run for mayor in the June, 1975 Democratic Primary. Former state representative Joe Riley Jr. is also expected to run for that post, while incumbent Gaillard hasn't yet announced his intentions. Many observers have speculated that Gaillard will gracefully retire rather than face an opponent like Riley, who has the backing of many establishment politicians in Charleston, as well as a measure of popularity with the Ravenel forces in Charleston. If Stein should win the Senate seat, it would leave Riley on solid ground to make a run at the mayor's office.

Letters

The following letter is in reference to a Cheap Shot in the November 22 edition of *Osceola*.

To the editors:

Cheap Shot - You named it!

You are a very talented group of writers. Why don't you seek the truth before you write? Let's set the record straight.

I purchased St. Phillips Island from a land auction company after a neighboring island was sold three times in six months, the last two owners being "out of staters."

After receiving permission from the Beaufort County Council, I submitted a plan for the establishment of a residential community on St. Phillips made up of people who enjoy nature.

The previous use of the island was as a hunting club where the favorite Sunday morning past time was to turn a pack of dogs loose to chase the deer up the oval-shaped island where the "hunters" killed the deer at point blank range.

We have established the island as a bird and wildlife sanctuary. The "environmentalists" raised the question, "Why not preserve St. Phillips in its natural state for all times?" I had already determined prior to purchase of the property that Parks, Recreation and Tourism and the S.C. Wildlife Commission had declined the purchase of the property.

I met in December of 1973 with Pat Nooman, President of the Nature Conservancy, and offered the property to the Conservancy provided it would be put into a trust for the people of South Carolina for all times. I have not had a reply from Mr. Nooman as of today.

After reading about the South Carolina Heritage Trust I met with the Board of Directors of Heritage Trust and offered St. Phillips Island to them at cost, provided it would be kept in trust for the people of South Carolina.

I am not looking for anyone to bail me out of anything.

As for the draft Environmental Impact Statement, perhaps someday you should do a report on the EIS method.

The draft is issued with a summation of the pros and cons of the proposed project. During the period that the draft EIS is distributed, the various statements pro and con are verified and evaluated; then, the final EIS is issued. Then and only then is it an official statement from the Coast Guard.

Please note the official letter from the Coast Guard verifies this fact.

Your "quotations" of the Coast Guard in the "Cheap Shots" column were exactly that.

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Who'll be the Titular Head?

For almost two weeks now, the biggest political item around the state has been the Great Titular Head Debate. There has been sound and fury aplenty, and by now almost everyone has concluded it all signified nothing.

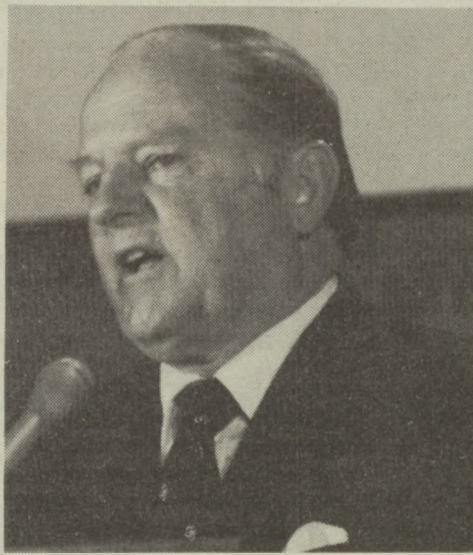
Of course the whole thing is absurd. By definition, "titular" leadership is institutionalized irrelevance. Under the circumstances, the question of "who shall it be?" is capable of being resolved anyway. Beyond that, who could possibly care?

Yet as a full-blown skirmish, with most of the heavies of the South Carolina Democratic Party choosing to participate, the Great Debate did serve to show where a number of heads currently are at.

The most pathetic figure throughout it all was Bryan Dorn. It's beginning to sink in to Brother Bryan now that he has finally and irrevocably blown his wad. Like so many other South Carolina Democrats, Dorn has no real ideology, no complex personal motivations. He's just a good old boy who likes to play the game, and all he really wanted was to be Governor. And for Millie to be First Lady. He paid his dues, God knows Bryan paid his dues, and he just knew this was his year. Even after his humiliating defeat at the hand of the Pucker, Dorn was willing to risk it all again -- because he just wanted to be Governor, no matter what he had to go through to get there.

At the hand of Jim Edwards, the most unlikely gladiator of all, Brother Bryan suffered the ultimate humiliation. In a year when Democrats were being swept into office in a landslide across South Carolina and the nation, "Mr. Democrat" Bryan bit the dust. Stereotyped now as a Claghorn, an anachronism, Dorn's political star is plummeting, never to rise again.

Perhaps it was Dorn's pitiable performance before the Washington press corps, proclaiming himself the martyred liberal and laying claim to the "titular leadership" of the party, that moved the less hackneyed hacks to feel they need to find a bonafide "titular leader" -- lest the situation



Dorn

degenerate even further.

For Senator Fritz Hollings, who knows a bandwagon when he sees one, the Great Debate offered another opportunity to put more distance between himself and the "Old Guard." For Hollings, the handwriting on the wall was only too clear this year. It's obvious to Fritz that the Ravenel phenomenon represents the wave of the future in South Carolina politics, and he's determined not to let it pass him by. His strategy has been to side publicly with the Pucker as much as possible, while digging at the Party establishment for too easily and too willingly allowing the Ravenel candidacy to die.

In parceling out his barbs, Fritz made targets of two of his former stalwart allies in the moderate New South axis that has been the Democratic Party establishment in South Carolina for at least a decade -- Governor John West and state party chairman Dr. Don Fowler.

Hollings' split with West, for whom Fritz campaigned vigorously in 1970, has been building for some time -- mostly over non-ideological matters such as the second medical school and the West-inaugurated state liaison office in Washington. West's marginal public popularity, and his instinctive inclination over the past year to assume the role of chief apologist for the establishment in the face of attacks from Republicans and dissident Democrats, made

him a prime target for Hollings.

Fritz the maverick has never gotten along too well with Dr. Fowler, though Don's successful track record has precluded any public criticism from Hollings heretofore. But now Don, who began his Party association 10 years ago as an unabashed liberal but wittingly or not has been transformed in the interim into the chief strategist and henchman for the conservative Party establishment, is also vulnerable in the post-Pug era. Ironically, many liberals within the Party who have been itching to get at Fowler's scalp for some time have grudgingly acknowledged that this year, through all the turmoil, Fowler's performance has been remarkably evenhanded and facilitative at least of the Ravenel campaign's needs. Nevertheless, Hollings did not hesitate to suggest the need last week for a new "young, aggressive chairman who can identify and work with the new young leadership in the state."

Beyond personal pique, which he made no effort to hide, West wasn't really aroused that much by the shots from Hollings, any more than by any of the other unprecedented developments this year. John Carl is ready to retire from politics now. Having put in his time, the Governor is chomping at his bit to leave public responsibilities behind, and get back to practicing law and making money as a bona fide big shot.

For Fowler, however, Hollings' attack was much more of a pill. Fowler has consistently defended himself against liberal charges that he is an apologist for the establishment and an obstructionist to reform. He began his political career with the assumption that he could function effectively as a "fifth column" liberal -- working within the power structure to veer it leftward. Gradually, he has become so involved with his own personal strategy of measured caution that he has been blinded to the rapidly escalating political changes going on around him.

Trying to keep up with it all, especially the bombshells of this year, has left Dr. Don drained, and not a little disillusioned. With the emergence of the liberals as a more powerful, effective force within his own domain, un beholden and uncontrolled and unimpressed by Fowler's leadership, the Chairman has been scrambling to repair his

liberal credentials. In the background is Fowler's own personal electoral ambition. If and when Dr. Don does finally become a candidate for something or other, his portrayal as a holdover-obligee of the Old Guard would now be a substantial liability.

So when Hollings, doing some scrambling of his own, takes public pot shots at Fowler as an Old Guarder who ought to be replaced, it obviously hurts.

Then, too, there's Lt. Governor-elect Brantley Harvey, who managed to survive November 5th despite lukewarm support from Party liberals and a strong challenge from GOP nominee Carroll Campbell. Harvey's political past has been characterized by measured moderate New Southism as much as has Fowler's or West's, or Hollings', for that matter. But like Fritz, Brantley has no difficulty in determining which way the wind is blowing; in his campaign, he chased as progressive an image as he could conjure up, and now that he has his reprieve, he shows every sign of intending to stake himself out as a full-fledged trooper in the progressive/reform crusade.

In the back of his mind, of course, are his own prospects for electoral adventure four years hence. If he is to have a solid shot at Governor, or some other state-wide office, his reform credentials must be in far better shape than the tenuous record he had to work with this year. As the Party's "titular head," he now would be more than willing to take up the banner Ravenel unfurled so dramatically last summer.

The big problem with all this leadership business, of course, is the implication that the South Carolina Democratic Party is somehow capable of achieving some sort of unity behind one leader, one set of principles, one common agenda, over the next four years. If the Great Debate settled anything, it was that the Democrats, after a decade of unparalleled monolithic "unity," have clearly embarked on a new era of factional division. The Old Party had its factions, without doubt, and the fights were fierce; but the old factions were built basically on personality. The Old Southern Democrats varied little, when it came down to the crunch, on questions of ideology.

Today, the factions within the Democratic Party are reflective as never before of a battle of ideas, a conflict of (continued on page five)

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The Trotters Shoals Dam project...

(continued from page one)

where construction of dams was feasible from an engineering point of view. The Corps reported that a site at Clark Hill, in McCormick County, seemed most feasible, but it decided against recommending construction at that time.

Pursuant to Franklin Roosevelt's efforts to bring electricity and jobs to the country's populace, the Corps was asked to re-examine their 1935 report. After a hasty review of only six weeks the Corps decided to recommend construction of the Clark Hill reservoir.

In a study made in 1962 by Dr. James M. Stepp of Clemson University on the proposed Trotters Shoals project, the author states, "...it was largely on the basis of this ... hastily prepared... report that Congress in 1944 authorized the Clark Hill project and approved the general plan for 'developing' the Savannah River by converting it into a chain of lakes."

Dr. Stepp's report indicated that final approval by Congress of the Clark Hill project in 1944 was based on a similar report designated as "preliminary," which was not intended by the Chief of Engineers in charge of the project to be "a firm plan for water resource development, even within the narrow economic framework in which the Corps of Engineers ordinarily conducts its studies."

In 1962, when Dr. Stepp prepared his study, he noted that the preliminary study had never been revised "...in light of new conditions, new knowledge, or a broad concept of economic development; yet, this plan is the plan which proponents of 'full and complete development' of the Savannah River cite with approval." The Clark Hill Dam and the Hartwell Dam were completed on the basis of this preliminary report.

Trotters Shoals itself, a combination of two of the original



Dorn

dams proposed by the Corps in the 40's, was authorized by Congress in the 1966 Flood Control Act, again on the basis of this incomplete report.

Congressman Bryan Dorn, whose congressional district encompasses the existing reservoirs at Hartwell and Clark Hill and the proposed Trotters Shoals site, played an integral role in gaining congressional approval for the new dam in 1966.

Dorn originally opposed the Trotters Shoals project, saying, "We don't need another fish pond," but his opposition turned to support when it became clear that approval of the Trotters Shoals project would be a political prerequisite to construction of a \$1 billion nuclear power plant by Duke Power Company at the Keowee-Toxaway site in Oconee County, also in Dorn's congressional district.

Dorn recently explained the situation this way. "Duke bought the land (Keowee-Toxaway) and applied for a license from the Federal Power Commission. Duke wasn't getting anywhere with the FPC and then on top of that the Rural Electric Coops informed us

that not only would they oppose a license for Duke before the Federal Power Commission, but should a license be granted, that they would take it into court."

Dorn said that Duke began to back off from the project and look for other sites because "these court suits can take ten years to settle."

Dorn began to worry about losing the billion dollar Duke project and the property tax revenues which would flow from such a project into Oconee County's coffers, so he looked for a way out. "I figured we had to do something so I went and met with officials of Duke Power and the REA and we reached an agreement. That is, that if they (REA) would withdraw opposition to the Keowee-Toxaway project before the FPC, and they would also agree not to bring any case in court then I would ... give Trotters Shoals the green light." (The REA coops are beneficiaries of the cheaper-priced power enabled by the low-interest federal funds used for projects like Trotters Shoals.)

Dorn explained that since he was a member of the Rivers and Harbors Subcommittee of the Public Works Committee he had no

trouble getting the Trotters Shoals project reported out of committee and passed by the House. Dorn then met with the late Senator Richard Russell of Georgia who agreed to guide the bill through the Senate.

So the REA coops got Trotters Shoals and Duke Power got its license for their nuclear power plant. "And I think it was a beautiful arrangement. I won't say 'deal,'" Dorn explained recently. The Keowee project was started almost immediately, but Trotters Shoals was sidetracked by the Vietnam War and other events which siphoned the funds that might have gone into its construction.

And now, almost a decade later, circumstances have changed and new information has been offered as to the financial and environmental impact of the proposed dam, but Bryan Dorn remains steadfast in his support of the project. When asked if his continued support was motivated by the "bargain" he struck with the REA coops, Dorn admitted, "I would be less than honest if I didn't say that was the principal reason."

But opponents of the dam have accumulated quite a collection of reasons why the dam is no longer needed or wanted.

The South Carolina State Development Board has insisted over the years that the project will have a negative effect on the area's economy, rather than a positive one as Dorn and backers say. Since 1959 the Development Board has voiced opposition to the project on numerous occasions. In a comment made in July of this year on the Environmental Impact Statement about Trotters Shoals, former board chairman T. Allen Legare Jr. said the group opposed the damming of the last free flowing segment of the Savannah River. "Without question, existing sites

on this free flowing portion of the river are desirable to industry," said Legare. "On the other hand, locating a water-using industry on a federal reservoir poses many serious problems. This is demonstrated by the fact that to date no wet process industries have located on either Clark Hill or Hartwell Reservoirs. By contrast, approximately \$400 million of capital, providing 6,000 jobs has been invested in plants sited on free-flowing stretches of the Catawba River in York and Lancaster counties."

The Environmental Impact Statement issued by the S.C. Wildlife and Marine Resources Department, assessing the impact the proposed construction will have on the area's environment, also denounced the project.

The Wildlife Department's biologists concluded in their report that "the best alternative would be to leave everything like it is and not build another reservoir between two existing reservoirs."

The biologists support their conclusions with an exhaustive report that cites a series of situations which would be adversely affected should the project be completed.

"Implementation of the Trotters Shoals project," the biologists observed, "will result in the inundation of the remaining 30-mile section of the river which now represents the last vestiges of this now nearly extinct river so deeply integrated with the historical background of upper Georgia and South Carolina Piedmont."

The report warned, "Though already quite changed from its original natural state, this ecological relic will be sacrificed, a development which should be of as much concern to the people of the area as the extinction of the passenger pigeon or the loss of the bald eagle."

The report also stated that other studies of the area which conclude that deer and wild turkey were not present in huntible numbers were "incorrect."

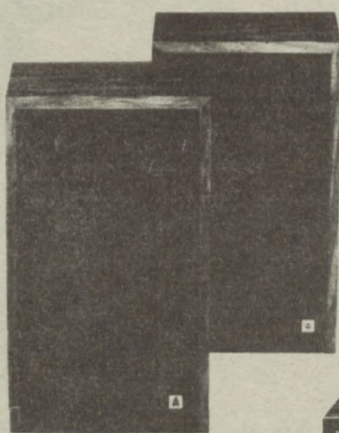
"Deer which are presently using the area will be forced to move into new territory when the area is flooded, possibly creating an over-population situation. The concentration of deer in the uplands will also increase crop damage on local agricultural operations," the report said.

The biologists reported that "Flooding of bottom lands will mean that wild turkeys, which are now increasing, will be sharply reduced or eliminated as happened on Clemson management area after Hartwell was flooded."

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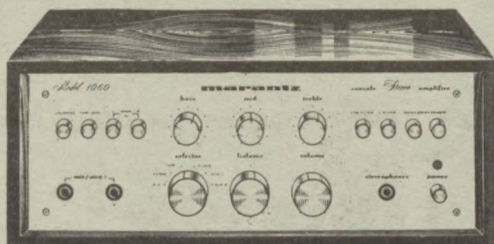
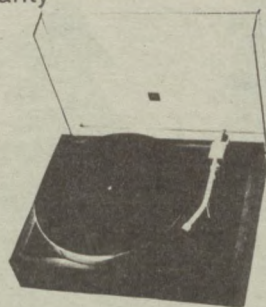
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Also inundated would be many interesting archeological and historical sites, the report explained, "such as Millwood, the estate of John C. Calhoun's family and ancient Indian fishdams located on the Rocky River."

Dr. Ross Clark, head of the biology department at Erskine College and chairman of the Upper Savannah River Defense Association, a coalition of fishing and conservation interests, is leading the local battle against Trotters Shoals.

Clark said, "Of course the main adversary is the Corps of Engineers. Over the years the Corps has dreamed up these projects in order to appeal to special interest groups and this is just another in a long line of Corps boondoggles."

"The Corps has mislead the public on about every facet of the benefits and costs of this project. They've got plenty of the taxpayers' money behind them. They've got the military mind and their attitude seems to be that whatever they conceive of is the right thing to do," Clark continued.

Complaining, he said, "They are not willing to consider alternatives or the interests of all the citizens involved."

Clark also contended that the main justification made by the project's proponents for the new dam -- increased recreational benefits and revenues from tourist trade -- is totally without basis. Bryan Dorn thinks the area could become a tourist haven, bringing in "five to six million a year now and could bring in up to 50 million

people in years to come."

But Dorn's and the Corps' dreams of a recreational mecca in one of the country's most impoverished areas is without supporting evidence, according to the opposition. They claim the same argument was used in justifying the construction of Clark Hill dam and reservoir, and that an examination of that project indicates just how wrong Dorn and the Corps are.

In a public relations article written in 1948 by the Army Corps' public information officer, the Corps' view of the future was revealed. "For years the fields of South Carolina and Georgia have been neglected, but now there is a prediction of prosperity and progress. Prosperity and progress in the form of Clark Hill dam and reservoir, a multimillion dollar and 150,000 acre development.

In a publication put out by the Clark Hill Authority after the dam was under construction entitled "The Truth About the Clark Hill Project," the minutes are reprinted of a public hearing involving an attempt by the Georgia Power Company to retain the site for private power development.

Then Gov. Strom Thurmond is recorded in those minutes as enumerating the benefits to be gained from Clark Hill by the people of the area. In speaking of the recreational benefits, Thurmond said, "If the federal government develops the project, the plans call for beautiful parks, for whites and blacks, separate parks. It calls for roads. It calls for rails and water to be provided.

We feel that the working people... the people we commonly refer to as 'the common man' will have an opportunity to enjoy the benefits of this basin from a recreational standpoint."

In the 19 years since the completion of Clark Hill, the Corps has done nothing to develop the Clark Hill Reservoir into the kind of recreational wonderland Thurmond and his cronies at the time promised. The only recreational area on the whole project is a small park constructed by the state.

Former McCormick state legislator Julius Baggett described in a 1971 interview what the Clark Hill project had meant to his county: "It was brought here and hailed as a mecca for tourists and campers and it was going to revitalize the economy of the county...and conversely... within the 20 years we have experienced this project, our county's population has declined 17 percent, and in addition to that, you can look at any economic factor that you want to consider and all of them have shown declines. Now I attribute that to one factor (Clark Hill)."

Baggett explained that the federal government owns 40 percent of the land in his county, much of it in the Clark Hill project. He said this hurt the county because this land is "unavailable for industry, unavailable for residential use, except on a very limited basis... and it's off the tax books under very severe and archaic policies and rules of the military regime of the Corps.

Having this much land owned by the federal government has deprived the county of funds rather than filling the coffers, as the Corps promised. Baggett explained, "Now Lake Murray, outside of Columbia, is a smaller lake than this (Clark Hill)...and of course it has its own (private) hydroelectric generating facilities. In 1970 they paid Lexington County alone... one of several counties they paid taxes to...\$1,112,000 in property taxes. Now what did McCormick County get from the Corps of Engineers in a similar project? \$1,230 during the last fiscal year."

If the Clark Hill experience can be considered a basis for prognosticating what will happen up the river at Trotters Shoals, then one of the most economically depressed areas of the country is heading for even more severe trouble.

Calhoun Falls, a village of "2500 happy people and two or three old grouches," as the sign outside of town indicates, is located in the midst of the area affected by Clark Hill.

We went to Calhoun Falls to try to gauge local feeling on the proposed Trotters Shoals project. At the small City Hall, a middle-aged woman sat behind a desk answering our questions.

"Is the mayor in?"
"No, you can try him at home, though."

A telephone call to the mayor's house proved futile. The woman then informed us that the Mayor was a plumber and maybe we could

ride around town and look for his truck. "It's a green pick-up with some bars welded on the back."

"Say, do you have a Chamber of Commerce?"

"We used to have the Jaycees and they did some of that, but they disbanded a while back."

So much for Calhoun Falls. The town relies heavily on the lumber industry. Pulpwood was stacked, waiting to be loaded on flatbed railway cars. But if Trotters Shoals is dammed, much of the land from which the timber was cut will be inundated, thus providing the people of this area another economic impediment to overcome.

Opponents of the project feel that there is little hope that either the Corps, or Dorn, or Butler Derrick, who was just elected to Dorn's congressional seat as Dorn sought the governorship, will do anything to stop the project.

The inertia of the federal bureaucracy will keep Trotters Shoals lumbering on, oblivious to the changing world. Clark and others hope, though, that newly-elected governor James Edwards will demonstrate the austerity he promised during his campaign by telling the federal government to save their \$250 million.

Two million dollars was appropriated last year by Congress to provide for acquiring access roads and to build sheds and other out-buildings. Next year Congress will again be faced with a request to fund Trotters Shoals, but this time the real decision, the real commitment will be made.

Politicus...

(continued from page three)

ideology. Both the old and the new politics in South Carolina have their strongest roots within the Democratic Party. The battles to come that will bear the greatest significance for politics in South Carolina over the next 20 years will occur within the Democratic Party, among Democrats -- in the General Assembly, at the party conventions, in the primaries. Unless and until the bulk of the conservatives gravitate to the Republicans, the GOP will remain essentially an opportunist party, as it was this year, switching from traditionalist to reform and back again depending on how the GOPs perceive the greatest weaknesses of the moment among the Democrats.

So now what is transpiring within the Democratic Party of South Carolina is a girding of loins for the coming battles. The liberals have seen what is possible, what can be done. Yet they must know much work lies ahead to consolidate the gains realized this year, to translate the first substantial expressions of voter rebellion in 1974 into a workable political base so that the changes they seek can be realized.

On the other hand, the conservative, establishment Democrats are by no means dislodged. They retain the advantages of superior financial resources, and greater in-fighting experience within the General Assembly and the party caucuses. Now that the Old Guard has received dramatic notice of exactly what it stands to lose, little time will be wasted, and little effort spared to recapture the initiative.

In this context, the quest for a "titular head" is a farcical exercise at best. It would make as much sense to try to get Yasir Arafat and Moshe Dayan to agree on a titular head for the Middle East.

Maybe the best thing would be to go ahead and give it to Brother Bryan after all. Give him a license plate with "TH-1" on it, set him up in the Lace House, give him a budget for an annual Young Democrats barbeque and unlimited travel to every veterans convention anywhere. It might not satisfy Millie, but it would settle the Great Debate, and it would be a humane gesture. Then everybody else could get down to business.

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Public Voice faces a long, cold winter

by Bob Thompson

Looking out the windows of Public Voice's offices on the eighth floor of the Columbia Building, one can see hopeful signs. Workers on the grounds of the state Capitol scurry about ant-like, as the official South Carolina Christmas tree is prepared for the holiday season. Using a crane, the workers loop garlands of gold and silver around the tall evergreen; later, lights and other ornaments will change the tree into a mute incarnation of the Christmas spirit.

Inside the Public Voice headquarters, the holiday spirit is hard to come by. The fledgling statewide citizens lobby is experiencing financial trouble that threatens to severely hamper its crusading efforts. Recently, Public Voice director William G. Harden issued a press statement to the effect that, if \$10,000 cannot be raised by December 15, the organization can no longer afford to pay its staff or rent its offices.

That staff is minuscule now -- in fact, Harden is the only full-time worker, and he says he hasn't been paid in a month. And the director says that without a full-time, professional staff to research and lobby for the various issues it's concerned with, Public Voice won't be effective.

So Harden is busy, telephoning, writing, and wearing thin the leather on his shoes (his last pair, he claims) in an attempt to raise the \$10,000 necessary to sustain the citizens lobby until April 1975. If Public Voice can only make it through the long winter, he thinks, money can be obtained from other sources -- foundations and more memberships especially. But, as Harden explains, "It takes money to generate

money," and that is one precious commodity at present.

Public Voice has championed several consumer causes in its year of existence -- most notably, fighting electric rate hikes, and opposing milk price fixing powers of the State Dairy Commission. The consumer-oriented lobby claims several triumphs, too, such as getting utilities to itemize the monthly costs of the coal cost adjustment on each consumer's bill, and forcing the utility companies to lower rates to some residential customers while shifting "a fair burden" to industrial users.

The South Carolina Public Service Commission and the three major power companies which it regulates -- Duke Power, S.C. Electric and Gas, and Carolina Power and Light -- have been the recipients of much of Public Voice's ire. The citizens lobby has consistently and continuously fought to keep electric rates to residential customers from being increased, and Public Voice has on occasions allied with other consumer groups to that end. Earlier *Osceola* articles have detailed the efforts of The Coalition to Stop Duke's Rate Increase -- of which Public Voice was a major part -- to keep the giant utility in line.

The brunt of Public Voice's early investigations and charges fell on the State Dairy Commission, which currently sets the retail and wholesale prices of milk that grocers and dairy farmers can charge. The current retail price of milk -- 84 cents a half gallon -- is among the highest in the nation. While the dairy industry has generally contended that skyrocketing feed prices have boosted the price of milk, Public Voice



Bill Harden

has charged that the high prices are the result of a Dairy Commission-sanctioned monopoly.

Harden, in his recent press release, pointed out that the state House of Representatives "resoundingly" passed a bill to strip the Dairy Commission of its price-fixing powers, but the bill died in the Senate's Agriculture Committee. Harden responded that the Senate's "inaction...reaffirmed that the Senate is the obstructionist chamber of the General Assembly."

Public Voice's successes so far have been limited but promising. Some of the problems that the lobbying group is fighting, such as utility rate increases, are ongoing processes that require eternal vigilance. Power companies, for instance, have become accustomed to filing for another rate increase just as soon as one is approved. And other issues, such as legislative ethics and tax reform, are, as Harden points out, complex issues that require the constant efforts of a full-time team of researchers and lobbyists.

In addition to following up projects it has already been working on, Public Voice hopes to embark on a few more. Harden especially pointed out the need for tax

reform, which he claims the General Assembly has been approaching with "stop-gap measures" but "very little long-range planning." The populist philosophy of Public Voice -- which is consistent with, if not a product of, Harden's personal philosophy -- is evident. Typical is the director's statement to this writer that "taxation has been used to keep poor people in their place."

Before Public Voice can put its progressive ideas to work on its old and new problems, it needs money. Public Voice pointed out two possible reasons why it has had trouble getting that money. "First, the economy is in terrible shape and people are simply not giving to worthwhile causes as they might ordinarily do," the organization concluded in a press release. And second, people "are accustomed to donating to political campaigns" if they want reforms made, which Public Voice contends is the least effective way to go about changing the system.

A third factor, which Public Voice might not admit but which must nonetheless be considered, is that Public Voice is considered by many people in the press and government to be a one-man show. But that's almost inevitable -- Bill Harden has been and will probably continue to be the driving force behind Public Voice, simply because he spends more time working on the organization's projects than anyone else. It's hard to separate the man from the work, but that is what Public Voice's critics must do.

Of course, if Public Voice doesn't get some money soon, it may become a no-man show.

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NATIONAL TOPICS

TRB
FROM WASHINGTON

Food, ad finitum

The marble blocks lie in the moonlight like white bones and I try to imagine what they were like when they were columns in the Roman Forum. From that marble bench Cicero may have risen to denounce Cataline. Senators moved to seats on the right to vote yes, and to the left, no. They literally "took sides." The orator spoke from the rostrum, so named for the rams, or rostra, taken as trophies from enemy warships and fastened on the platform. The great stones lie there, testifying that empires decline and fall.

Now the world shrinks again, back to the one world that Rome conquered and controlled. The World Food Conference just held here dramatized this. There are about four billion people on earth, half of them hungry and maybe (though estimates differ) 460,000 malnourished or actually starving. Can the world survive, half famished and half fed?

I made discoveries at this conference. One was that "population" is a naughty word, like "sex" to certain Victorians. The Chinese delegate, the Russian delegate, and the Pope, all condemned population control. Yet at the present rate the earth's population will double in 35 years, with the growth of food already out-paced. "The conference is absolutely schizophrenic," said observer Grant Cotram of the University of Wisconsin. "Delegates have pushed population into the corner, yet it is the absolute determinant of the food crisis."

Another thing I learned is the way a lot of small countries dislike us. We so want to be loved. Why don't they love us? Well, in Caesar's time did the Gauls love Rome? The U.S. has six percent of the world's population but uses 40 percent of its resources. Can such an imperial discrepancy last? Things move faster now. Someday all the legions come home. Look at those stones.

Little nations like Yemen and Upper Volta regard us askance. After all, when half the world was hungry imperial America paid farmers not to grow food. We slaughtered calves the other day too. This is no new thing. What is new is that the United States is now for the first time itself aware of it.

Then there is the matter of trade. We and the other rich members of our club set the terms of world prices. For every ton of rubber, of sisal or tea that it took in the 50's and 60's to buy a tractor from us, it now takes two tons. When we complain the Arabs fix the price of oil, the have-not nations slap their sides with laughter. They would like to do the same thing. Has Washington any plan if there is another embargo? From here there seems to be no energy plan; indeed, is there any government at all in Washington? How about the payment of petro-dollars? The sum is huge. Can anybody visualize \$60 billion? That is about the total amount of all American holdings abroad, built up over the years. And that is also the amount the oil cartel will ask from the world in just one year. A friend with the World Bank tells me, "It can't be paid." When I ask what he means, he shrugs.

The dollar has been sinking in terms of gold, and we are preparing a self-inflicted wound of letting individuals buy gold again January 1st. Some expect a "run," not against banks but against money itself.

The highlight of the Food Conference was the unexpected attack by Secretary Butz on Senators Humphrey, McGovern and Clark of his delegation before a startled press conference on the next-to-the-last day. The delegation had cabled President Ford for authority to promise more aid, and Butz himself signed the telegram, under pressure. Finally came the negative reply. Humphrey had pleaded eloquently for more famine aid, making his case publicly and privately, but I thought, with in the

bounds of propriety and courtesy. Butz's thin, pinched face, as he repeated, "three democratic senators" in a kind of refrain before about 200 reporters and spectators, made him look like the self righteous farmer with a pitchfork in the picture "American Gothic" by Grant Wood. By inference he charged the senators with denigrating their country in foreign parts. Further, they had put compassion before a balanced budget. And so Earl Butz presented the gut issue more dramatically than anyone had thought possible: what sacrifice will America make for starving people?

One can sympathize in a way with Secretary Butz. America's record of food-giving is generous. As Humphrey told me, many critics of the U.S. do not have clean hands, they have not fed their own people. Local left wing clagues at press conferences here followed the radical chic line, seeming to imply that last summer's U.S. drought was a CIA plot. It was all too much for Earl Butz whose one solution is the market economy.

Looking back on all this, I think the Food Conference did a good job in centering attention on the immediate emergency. But the longer problem remains -- how to feed a swelling population on a small planet with finite resources. America cannot continue much longer as World Food Bank, as it has for 25 years -- the problem is too big. Social revolutions are required right back in the poor countries themselves to free the small farmer and the landless, linclothed laborer. Television won't stop showing us the emaciated child with birdcage ribs and the mother too listless to brush away the flies.

Time to leave the forum now. Time to grab a Fiat taxi, surefooted as a cat, that scampers over cobbled Roman roads whose very manhole covers show the imperial letters "S P Q R." What price grandeur? The white blocks ask that in the moonlight.

JACK ANDERSON

AND THE WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

Battle of the budget

WASHINGTON — The new Congress, with its liberal tilt, is expected to cut military spending. The liberals would rather spend the money to feed the hungry and find jobs for the jobless.

President Ford has promised his military chiefs, however, that he will battle for the defense budget. He will accept moderate but not deep cuts, he told them.

He urged the armed forces to take the initiative by cutting out the fat. The Army, for example, is top-heavy with brass. Consequently, Pentagon insiders anticipate a "reduction-in-force" next year that could, in words of one high-ranking official, be "damn bloody."

The Army is also weighted down with support troops, who perform services for one another, without adding anything to the Army's fighting power.

Under the President's prodding, the Army will start moving support troops into combat units. The goal is to stretch the number of combat divisions from 13 to 16 without adding any manpower.

The other services will also trim down to better fighting shape. The goal, once again, will be to get more bang for the buck.

Corpulent Congress

If Congress would linger a moment over its own budget, meanwhile, the taxpayers' burden might be lightened a bit more. The politics of an election year killed a hoped-for pay increase for the lawmakers, but they quietly granted themselves larger allowances to offset their \$42,500 annual salaries.

Each congressman now receives \$6,500 a year for stationery. This is almost double the figure of two years ago. The penurious potentate, moreover, is permitted to pocket any surplus he manages to accumulate.

Without failure, the lawmakers also received increased allowances for office rental in their home districts, telephone service, postage and staff. The additional cost to the taxpayer will run to several million dollars.

Buried in the latest tax reform bill, furthermore, is a provision that would boost the deductions a congressman

can take for his living expenses in Washington.

These are but the latest additions to a fringe benefit package that would make a union boss drool with envy. Congressmen already receive free parking spaces, cheap food, catering services, free potted plants, gymnasium facilities, picture-framing services and decorative maps, paintings and photographs.

In short, the legislators are not likely to feel the pinch of the tight economy until they visit their districts.

Cool War

The United States and the Soviet Union are preparing for a momentous conflict over Western Europe. The Kremlin believes that the threatening economic breakdown will make Western Europe ripe for revolution. There is open talk in Moscow about the defeat of capitalism in Europe.

Mikhail Suslov, the No. 2 man in the Politburo, has taken charge of the undercover operations in Western Europe. He has already strengthened the Kremlin's ties with the Communist movements in Spain, Portugal and Italy. His aim is to take advantage of Western Europe's economic troubles to bring the Communists to power.

Washington is fully aware of the Kremlin's activities and is taking measures to prevent a Communist takeover of Western Europe. The word has gone out to our European allies that the Soviet-American detente doesn't mean they should relax their vigil against Communism.

Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, during his recent visit to Rome, urged Italian leaders not to admit the Communists into a coalition government. Kissinger's strong opposition reportedly prevented an accommodation between the Christian Democrats and the Communists.

Both Washington and Moscow, meanwhile, are still pushing peaceful coexistence. But behind the scenes, they are girding for a new "Cool War" over Western Europe.

Doctor's Debate

The medical profession is in an uproar over ex-President Nixon's phlebitis operation, which almost resulted in his death. His treatment has become the hottest controversy in

medical circles.

The chief physician in the case, Dr. John C. Lungren, has been sharply criticized for performing the operation while Nixon's blood was thin from anticoagulants. Dr. Lungren's choice of the vein which was shut off to prevent the movement of blood clots has also been questioned.

But the biggest issue is whether Dr. Lungren should have called in specialists. Some doctors say the former President might have avoided a close call if experts in bleeding and clotting had been consulted.

Dr. Lungren has answered his critics, in private, by demanding how they can criticize his decisions without knowing all the facts. He has also argued that too many specialists result in fragmentary care for the patient.

The controversy may be settled by the court-appointed doctors who will examine Nixon and report their findings to Judge John Sirica.

Washington Whirl

The National Park Service prints up and mails, at public expense, over 2,000 invitations to its annual croquet tournament in Washington. As one wag told us, the players have a ball, but the taxpayers get knocked through the hoop...The State Dept.'s "freedom of information" files are kept in heavy steel cabinets equipped with oversized combination locks...Eastern Airlines has come up with a new gimmick to boost its ticket sales. On a recent Miami flight, a stewardess gave away two bottles of wine to the passenger with the oldest penny and the one with the most credit cards. The winning copper was dated 1924. The second bottle went to a man carrying 17 plastic passes to poverty...

The Humane Society is trying to get some animal films classified "R" so they'll lose money. The animal lovers also want to get the worst films banned in interstate commerce so they can be shown only in the state where they are made...Alaskan game wardens recently bagged a preacher. Radio evangelist Garner Ted Armstrong was caught illegally killing a moose. He forked over a \$500 fine and the moose was served up to schoolchildren.

Cinema/'The Trial of Billy Jack'

Land of Oz for the 'head generation'

The *Trial of Billy Jack* is a film full of good intentions, and despite the hard sell that it's getting in the ads, I think that those intentions are basically sincere. Compared to the cynical come-on of some recent movies -- the sexy disasters, callow killers, and pointlessly clever heists -- this one seems like a breath of fresh, unpolluted air. Unfortunately, this very likability may be its greatest weakness; for in taking on the various evils of contemporary society, *The Trial of Billy Jack* lacks the intellectual teeth, the sting of realism that would make its charges stick. In this movie, as in the original *Billy Jack*, the close textures of social corruption are transformed into the bright, schematic contours of head dreams.

But it is really difficult to deal with these movies in conventional critical terms, for both the new film and its predecessor are really more a form of glorified street theatre -- flower-child agitprop -- that make only the most primitive, perfunctory use of their dramatic and cinematic resources. In the first effort of Tom Laughlin and his wife Delores Taylor with these characters, the crudities tended to dominate, and it seemed like a new kind of commercial ploy: calculated ingenueness. *Billy Jack* was, as all the world must by now know, the story of Jean Roberts, founder of a "freedom school" in the Arizona desert for runaways and dropouts, and of her half-Indian lover, Billy Jack, who used karate to protect these kids from the assaults of the local middle-American primitives. In the end, Billy was goaded to the killing of a sex pervert (doing society's work for it, don't you see), and it took half the U.S. Army and a deal with Washington to finally force his surrender.

It was pure fantasy; and the aesthetic boners of *Billy Jack* were legion, not the least of which was the comic strip character drawing. Laughlin's macho routine as Billy seemed the ultimate in ego-tripping since it was self-written and self-directed (the Laughlins used pseudonyms in the credits -- who can blame them? -- and in the new film they are Frank and Teresa Christina; both are variations on the names of their children, Frank and Christina), the black-hat villains smacked of demagogic simplification since they supposedly represented the entire political right, and Taylor and her students were preposterously goody-goody. It was a movie that seemed at once to grab for all segments of the audience, smuggling up to youthful paranoia while sating the action-minded with scenes derived from the kung fu epics, a movie gratuitously creating its own myth.

And those who saw only altruism in *Billy Jack* may be startled by the marketing history of the film. In November of 1973, *The New York Times* reported on the media blitz that was accompanying the reissue of *Billy Jack* (a sleeper in 1971, the movie didn't take off until redistributed two years later): "In markets where the Taylor-Laughlin picture is showing, it is receiving greater advertising support than any single brand of anything." They went on to describe how demographic "area maps" were being used, and how six television commercials had been created so that those "with soap opera flavor were dropped in during soap operas and those featuring violence into shows with that orientation." (These media methods are highly reminiscent of Nixon's '68 and '72 campaigns.) Laughlin personally directed much of the distribution including the new, more lucrative practice of "four wall booking" -- the film renting the theatre rather than vice versa -- and he and his wife were made multimillionaires by the movie. After all this, the ads by late '73 had the gall to ask, "Why is *Billy Jack* one of the most popular films of our times?"

But if *Billy Jack* was a film trying too hard to succeed, *The Trial of Billy Jack* is one where success is assured, and the result is improvement in almost every phase of production. The now well-heeled Laughlins ironically seem to have been liberated rather than corrupted by their success, and the stridency of the earlier film has been replaced by a disarming sincerity and a more relaxed atmosphere. The acting is one example of this, for while there is still little pretense toward style and the cast are



essentially playing themselves, there is now an easy naturalism that is a considerable directorial accomplishment in itself (Altman is a genius at it). Taylor, with her rough-hewn country woman's face, is a natural camera subject, and since she is no longer being raped or emoting hysterically, she becomes positively likable. The kids show a sense of group that seems to extend beyond the cameras, and appear unintimidated by the movie process (one of the girls fluffs a line, but nobody seems to much care). Even Billy Jack is brought down from his mythopoeic heights and begins to have doubts about his violent ways, although Laughlin, who is no fool, has provided the action scenes that many in the audience undoubtedly shelled out their three dollars for.

Furthermore, while the new film still has bits of amateur psychology -- straights hate long-hairs because they're afraid of their own femininity -- and philosophy -- Billy tells a packed courtroom that we all carry Death with us as though he were unveiling the secrets of the Universe -- it isn't pushy or preachy, and a long sequence in which Billy undergoes a mystical purification rite (with voodoo dialogue that harks back to *Jonathan Livingston Seagull*) is pleasantly ridiculous. Even the music is better, and the atrocious ballad and canned backgrounds of *Billy Jack* have been replaced with some sweet if unspectacular songs by Christina Laughlin (who plays Carol) and a lovely score by Elmer Bernstein (although Bernstein -- Lenny's brother -- who has obviously been brought in to class things up, overdoes it by portentously quoting a few bars of the *Dies Irae* during one of the massacres).

I wish that this movie had just concerned itself with its mysticism and visions of pop-paradise, but unfortunately it purports to be about such things as My Lai, Kent State, and Watergate, and it simply lacks the respect for the facts that would make it an effective expose or even dramatization. For example, the first of these events to be reconstructed is My Lai, when Billy flashes back to his Vietnam days, but rather than being shown as a lieutenant leading his men into a village with guns blazing, the villagers are herded into a long ditch, death camp style, and the soldiers slaughter them only after direct orders from the top over the radio. In dealing with Watergate, it isn't enough just to show how businessmen use campaign contributions to gain their ends (in this case Indian land), they must be given rabid sex lives as well, and a hunting party of bigwigs in the desert is an implied (not shown) orgy. Finally, the basic plot of the film is to show how a Kent State type massacre happened to the Freedom School, but when Guardsmen open fire, it isn't a couple of volleys into a crowd but a five minute barrage as though the school were a Viet Cong hamlet.

While this fictionalization of actual events has its abuses, as in *Executive Action*, I don't really blame the Laughlins for their simplifications and exaggerations, for they themselves explain these actions in a final title as attempts

to make the events depicted real to people (although half the audience is already out of the theatre by the time this comes on). Tolstoy, no less, did the same thing with his tract stories that were intended to teach simple moral precepts to the Russian peasants. But I can see nothing simple about My Lai or Watergate, and Tolstoy was a great artist whose simplifications had universal meaning. The degree of falsity in the way *The Trial of Billy Jack* reduces events may do more harm than good, making these social horrors less rather than more real to people.

When I called these *Billy Jack* movies head dreams, I did not mean to imply that there is anything spaced about the Laughlins, who seem commonsensical if not overly bright. But the near fanatical following that *Billy Jack* received from the young and campus audiences -- similar to that accorded to Hobbitt land -- suggests that many viewers are becoming absorbed in these films as a kind of cinematic wishfulfillment: a Freudianized dream world complete with sympathetic mother figure, protective father, lots of technological toys (the school in the new film has its own recording studio, TV station -- whose complex equipment the kids master readily -- even bio-feedback), and a ready sympathy for their disillusionment with the older generation. For the consciousness strained through marijuana smoke, this movie and its portrayal of our national tragedies may even seem like the way things really are.

If *The Trial of Billy Jack* were really intent on reform, then the obvious approach would be to accumulate masses of carefully documented detail. Few current movies attempt this (the superb *Serpico* is a rare exception), and ironically enough it is the old boob tube that has taken up the cause of social realism with such brilliant fact-based dramas as *The Law* and *The Glass House*. But it is easy to blame our problems on the politicians or "trigger-happy police types" or the CIA, that many people may accept these causes without thinking and feel that if these groups would just see the error of their ways all would be well. *The Trial of Billy Jack* ends with the students chanting, "Give peace a chance," and I was reminded of the civil rights marchers of the early sixties who sang, "We shall overcome." In both cases, the emotive repetitions probably brought many to a state of semi-hypnotic euphoria. But it took years of litigation, attitude changing, hard work, and simply time for the blacks to even partially overcome discrimination; it took more than sloganeering. A movie that simplifies things the way this one does tends to cast a soporific cloud, blocking thought and action, and the *Billy Jack* films are fast becoming the Land of Oz for the head generation. It's a movie full of good intentions and is extremely likeable, but as a force for change it's a flop; good intentions are just not good enough.

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SPILLANE PROFILE
November 21
on S.C. ETV

Mickey Spillane might only have been that name I always seemed to see on the revolving drugstore bookstand, stamped like the postal warning "FRAGILE" across the glossy paper buttocks of a Vargas girl turned cover girl, had I never seen a special "Profile of Mickey Spillane," aired November 21 by the South Carolina Educational Television Network.

Producer June Lacata took her ETV crew to Murrell's Inlet, South Carolina, and proudly showed us that the bearer of this ubiquitously famous name lived right here in our own backyard most of the year and that he was a regular bravuric but unassuming guy who all the neighbors knew about. I had known that Mickey Spillane was a super best-selling day-dreamer, perhaps the world's most popular entertainer in print, but I had harbored the exotic notion that he had lived since the war in the Left Bank of Paris with Harold Robbins and Jacqueline Susann. On the contrary, I found on the tube a likeable New York-broguish-but-not-brutish Rocky Graziano type of hack typing away, shirtless, on his modest cabin cruiser on the Inlet, with one eye on the crab lines. "This way I can catch my supper, earn my living, and get a good suntan all at the same time," Mickey quipped, twice in the course of the telecast, once again so we didn't forget that he was a character, just a character, a great guy with an admirable, enviable, nonchalant lifestyle.

As can be seen from the photograph on this page, Mickey is a prototypical jock, splendidly aging at about 50, with a square ruddy-looking defensive tackle's face and a neat gray-tinted crewcut. On the day of the ETV taping he wore a black turtleneck, white shorts and no shoes. He reminded me of what I thought might be a handsome projection of Curly of The Three Stooges, an impression which I don't mean to be unflattering since it was soon apparent that Mickey's boundless energetic spirit was that of a Hemingway in vaudeville.

No more charming host and -- how shall I say it -- prolific talker could the crew and interviewer Jim Welch have hoped to find in a celebrity, and the profile, incidentally, would have undoubtedly been more fluid had the staff dispensed with the idea of an open air and casual interview and just filmed Mickey performing solo out on the beach or in his wall-set den. It was always the real Schlitz gusto in Mickey's voice that was entertaining, much more than the content of his talk and reflections. Mildly clever and benignly audacious were such comments as "I like to talk to my fans ... my customers. I don't call them fans, I call them customers," and "I write to make money" (or words directly to the effect) and "What is good is what sells, what the public buys." In summing up his career in a single sentence, Mickey said that he had worked his

way down from slick mags to comic books before -- did Mickey mean to imply further down? -- moving into novels and his famous blonde-busting private detective character, Mike Hammer.

Back in his den, in front of a pine-wood wall generously stocked with a publisher's Free List library, trophies and plaques, a display of rifles (no moosehead), and a corner WWII Air Force flying gear and other war mementos and paraphernalia, Mickey read from the back of one of his books a rave review from the New York Times -- which I thought a completely innocent, candid, and unembarrassing gesture, the product of a simple sportsman's ego, and not a complicated artistic one. Mickey also mentioned, among other things, and this with a little bemused humility, that his books were practically "the only ones left where the guy still went with a girl," thus casually reaffirming his rugged individualism in the face of the massive homophile threat to frontier machismo.

I thought this Mickey Spillane just as cute as Gentle Ben. Although I assumed his work was cheap Big Market Business, unabashedly written just to sell, I hadn't yet sampled any of his stuff. I decided even before heading for the drugstore to try to drum up some wry affection for Spillane and his work, the kind of wry affection that made Gore Vidal



Mickey Spillane

write that beautiful essay on the image of man in the Edgar Rice Burrough's Tarzan series.

But little did I imagine that Mickey's chauvinism, so quaint and anachronistic in casual conversation, is so downright -- well, let's get out with it -- *sadistic* in the *psychological* profile provided by his heroic alter-egos like Mike Hammer and Dogeron Kelly. To cut short a plot summary, let me say that Mickey's book *The Erektion Set* is best described as an extended text for a What Kind of Man Reads Playboy

ad, with Clint Eastwood or Charles Bronson in the role of the male model. I couldn't get a third of the way through this book, I confess, and resigned myself to skimming throughout the rest looking for some of Mickey's fabulous "moosehead" metaphors, my favorite of which follows:

I never could figure out why people didn't like the rain It cleaned things out. A good rain in New York was the city's only mouthwash and it gargled happily and rumbled with pleasure as the

garbage spewed out down the drain.

But here I go, criticizing the work of a real great guy (as if I expected Tolstoy or something), one of the great neighbors down at Murrell's Inlet, who just sits out in his boat, shirtless, getting a suntan, crab fishing, writing a novel here and there in two or three weeks (if the fish aren't biting), writing because his customers want him to write, a rugged individual, a common little businessman, the friendly proprietor of a General Store for, well, Trash is what I guess they call it. Yet it brings me around to one final comment on this locally-produced ETV effort, which was pretty well done in terms of shooting and "staging," though I would have liked some voice-over commentary and not just the scoop of one prize personality uncovered like some rare starfish in the sand. It seems to me that there are only two profitable ways to look at Mickey Spillane: one, up very close, as a real nice guy, who just happens way in the background to have fantasies that sell enough to make him rich and famous; or, two, way back, very abstractly, as a *social phenomenon*, as, maybe, the progenitor of a new dime novel in a frontier long remodeled into an implosive industrial role-playing jungle. Anything in between, it seems to me, lies in the vacuity of patronizing fanhood.

Dan Lackey

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EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT

by Melissa Pruitt

November 30 - December 6

cinema

If you're thinking of going to a movie, better call ahead to verify time and feature since many area theatres are subject to change after our deadline.

ATLANTIC I THEATRE, 3220 Two Notch Road, 786-0790

"Black Belt Jones" and "Cleopatra Jones" are this week's super-tough, black hero movies. Rated R, the former will be shown at 3:25, 6:35 and 9:45 and the latter will be shown at 4:55 and 8:05.

ATLANTIC II THEATRE, 3220 Two Notch Road, 786-0790

"Lady on a Couch" and "Distortions of Sexuality" are the latest sin-filled twin bill. These titles leave nothing to the imagination. Rated what else but X, shows are continuous from 3:15 with the last complete feature at 8:45.

CAROLINA THEATRE, 1223 Main Street, 252-8011

Andy Warhol's "Dracula" is here and no doubt is true to Warhol's form with lots of blood and violence. Rated X, show times are 1:40, 3:30, 5:20, 7:10 and 9. The weekend late show (November 29 and 30) is "Carnal Knowledge" and will be shown at 11.

CINE-ART THEATRE, 1017 Washington Street, 779-3039

"Deep Sleep" and "Keep The Ball Rolling" are on this week's menu here. Shows are continuous from 1 p.m. The late show on Friday and Saturday night (November 29 and 30) is "The Student." Admission is \$2 for the 11:30 showing. Everything here is rated X, naturally.

DUTCH SQUARE NORTH THEATRE, Dutch Square Mall, 798-1110

"American Graffiti," rated PG, is a nostalgic look at the teenagers of the early sixties. Show times are 1:15, 3:15, 5:15, 7:15 and 9:15. See review inside this week's edition.

DUTCH SQUARE SOUTH THEATRE,

Dutch Square Mall, 798-1110

"The Wonder of It All," an exploitative nature flick, is here in time for the holidays to provide family fun and entertainment. Rated G, shows are at 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9. Saturday, November 30, Hardees is sponsoring a cartoon festival, beginning at 10. Free tickets for this special are available at any of the Columbia Hardees.

FOX THEATRE, 1607 Main Street, 254-5212

"The Trial of Billy Jack" claims to take up where "Billy Jack" left off. See review inside this week's edition. Rated PG, with shows at 1:20, 4:40 and 8.

GAMECOCK I THEATRE, Parkland Plaza Shopping Center, 796-0022

"The Trial of Billy Jack" is here too. Do Columbians really want to see this movie that badly? Shows are 1:30, 5 and 8:30.

GAMECOCK II THEATRE, Parkland Plaza Shopping Center, 796-0022

"The Wonder of It All." Shows at 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9.

JEFFERSON SQUARE THEATRE, Jefferson Square, Downtown, 254-6731

"The Longest Yard," rated R, is still among us. Star Burt Reynolds is showing off his body again, this time as a pro football player who goes to prison. Show times are 2, 4:30, 7 and 9:15.

MIRACLE THEATRE, 1228 Main Street, 256-1950

"Airport 1975" is about a 747 that collides with a small plane killing the crew. The plane full of stars is saved by that all-time hero, Charlton Heston. Rated PG, the plane takes off at 1:10, 3:15, 5:20, 7:25 and 9:30.

PALMETTO THEATRE, 1417 Main Street, 254-5800

"The Kiansman," rated R, stars Lee Marvin and Richard Burton. This film marks the beginning of the end for Liz and Richard. While filming in Southern California Burton supposedly starting messing around with a waitress. We don't

know anything about the movie! Shows at 3, 5, 7 and 9. The weekend (November 29 and 30) 11:15 late show is "Woodstock."

PLAZA III THEATRE, 1323 Main Street, 254-7960

"The Day of the Dolphin," rated PG, stars George C. Scott. A man accidentally trains a dolphin to kill the President of the United States. Show times are 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9. The 11 p.m. late show this Friday and Saturday (November 29 and 30) is "Ladies and Gentlemen, the Rolling Stones."

RICHLAND MALL THEATRE, Richland Mall, 782-2228

"Lieutenant Robin Crusoe" is a Walt Disney comedy starring Dick Van Dyke. Rated G with shows at 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9. The November 29 and 30 11:15 p.m. late show is "Mad, Mad, Mad Monster Shows."

music

World-renowned harpsichordist **Igor Kipnis** will present a program of Bach music December 1 at the Columbia Museum of Art. The 3 p.m. concert is open to the public.

Johnny Winter will be at the Carolina Coliseum December 3 for an 8 p.m. show. Robin Trower is special guest. Tickets are \$4, \$5 and \$6 and are now on sale at the Coliseum box office and Coliseum ticket outlets.

The University of South Carolina will present its second annual **Christmas Music Festival** in the Carolina Coliseum Sunday, December 8, at 4 p.m. The program will feature carol sing-alongs, Christmas stories and special music performances combining the talents of the USC band, orchestra and concert choir. The Opera Workshop will also present its version of "Mr. Scrooge." The hour-long festival was coordinated by Dr. William J. Moody, head of the USC

Department of Music, and there will be no admission charge.

The Columbia College Choir's Christmas Concert is scheduled for 8 p.m. December 10 at the College's Cottingham Theatre.

Deep Purple is coming to the Carolina Coliseum December 15 for an 8 p.m. concert. Tickets are \$4.50, \$5.50 and \$6.50 and are available at the Coliseum box office and Coliseum ticket outlets.

theatre

The South Carolina Open Road Ensemble (SCORE) will be in Columbia November 29 and 30 for three performances. Tennessee Williams' play, "A Streetcar Named Desire," is scheduled for 8 p.m. November 29. At 3 p.m. November 30, SCORE actors will dramatize stories by Hans Christian Andersen in "Story Theatre" and at 8 p.m. they will present a bill of one-acts entitled "Changes." All three productions will be in the Washington Auditorium of the University of South Carolina and tickets for the evening performances are \$3 for adults and \$2 for students, while all tickets to "Story Theatre" are \$1. Admission is free to USC students. For further information contact the South Carolina Arts Commission, 829 Richland Street, 758-2592.

Workshop Theatre will present "Little Women," the first of the season's children's shows, December 3 through 17. The play will be staged Tuesday through Sunday at 7:30 p.m. with an added 3 p.m. matinee on Saturday and Sunday. On December 14 there will be no evening performance. "Little Women" is not included in the regular season membership and all tickets are \$2. Reservations can be made by calling the box office, 252-5756, after noon. Group rates are also available.



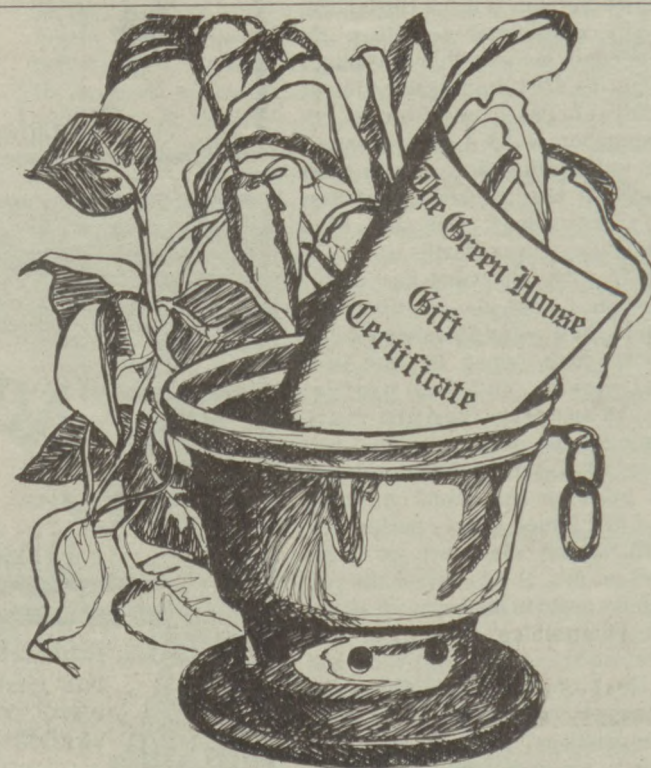
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Events/entertainment

USC Theatre will present "Franklin and Friends" in the Drayton Hall Theatre, December 4 through 7 at 8:15 p.m. each evening. "Franklin and Friends" takes events from our nation's early history and forms them into a satiric revue, which was written by USC's James Patterson. Tickets are on sale at the Drayton Hall box office between noon and 5 p.m. and one hour before curtain time. They are \$1 for all students, \$2 for USC faculty and staff and \$3 for all others. Reservations can be made by calling 777-2551.

lectures

Dr. Vernon Bourke, authority on the thought of St. Thomas Aquinas, will speak at the USC's Belk Auditorium (in the Business Administration building) December 6 at 8 p.m. The lecture, entitled "St. Thomas and Modern Day Thought," is part of the activities planned for a symposium on Aquinas being held on campus December 6. The symposium will

begin at 2 p.m. in the eighth-floor auditorium of the Business Administration Building and during the afternoon Professors Robert Patterson and John Dolan of the history department and Professor Robert Mulvaney of the philosophy department will speak.

specials

The Columbia Zoo in Riverbanks Park is reducing its admission rates for the winter months. Admission is now \$1.75 for adults and 75 cents for children.

Stonehouse Pottery will hold a holiday open house and sale November 29 and 30 and December 1 and 2. Four craftsmen will be selling a variety of planters, decorative ware and functional tableware, macrame and candles. Hours are 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Monday and noon to 7 p.m. Sunday. To reach Stonehouse Pottery go out route 215 north six miles past I-20 and turn left at the yellow mailbox. For further information call 754-9100.

The League of Women Voters is holding a general meeting and holiday party December 6 at Lace House, 801 Richland Street (across from the Governor's Mansion). The 8 p.m. meeting will feature a panel of legislators and lobbyists discussing "Lobbying in the South Carolina Legislature." Call the League office, 252-2647, to make reservations. There will be a \$1.50 charge per person to cover the cost of refreshments.

television

Saturday, November 30

1:15 p.m. - College Football. Army and Navy meet for their 75th annual game. (Channel 25)
5 p.m. - College Football. The Fighting Irish of Notre Dame vs. the University of Southern California Trojans at Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum. (Channel 25)
5:30 p.m. - NFL Game of the Week. (Channel 19)

Sunday, December 1

1 p.m. - NFL Football. The Baltimore Colts meet the Buffalo Bills at Rich Stadium in Orchard Park, New York. (Channel 10)
1 p.m. - NFL Football. The Green Bay Packers and the Eagles are scheduled to meet at

Philadelphia's Veterans Stadium. (Channel 19)

4 p.m. - NFL Football. The Los Angeles Rams take on the Falcons at Atlanta Stadium. (Channel 19)

4 p.m. - Movie. "Days of Wine and Roses," starring Jack Lemmon and Lee Remick, is the story of a couple's battle against alcohol. (Channel 10)

4 p.m. - Women's Pro Tennis. Chris Evert and Evonne Goolagong vie for the richest payoff in women's tennis - \$32,000 - in the singles final of the 1974 Virginia Slims Championships, taped at the Los Angeles Sports Arena. (Channel 25)

Monday, December 2

8 p.m. - College Basketball. The Bucknell Bisons meet the South Carolina Gamecocks at Carolina Coliseum in the season's first basketball game. (Channel 10)

9 p.m. - NFL Football. The Cincinnati Bengals meet the Dolphins at the Orange Bowl in Miami. (Channel 25)

10 p.m. - "The Wild Places." Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward are the backpacking hosts of this hour spotlighting America's wilderness areas. South Carolina's privately owned Congaree Swamp is one of the areas featured. Environmental agencies have requested that the National Park Service preserve portions of the swamp currently being harvested, so that the virgin forest, including record-breaking trees, will be protected. The Newmans also visit a caribou range in northern Alaska, Utah's Red Rock Canyon, the rugged hiking trails of New Hampshire's Mount Washington and the lakes of Minnesota's North Woods. (Channel 10)

Tuesday, December 3

8 p.m. - Movie. "The Red Badge of Courage," a TV adaptation of Stephen Crane's classic Civil War novel, stars Richard Thomas. (Channel 10)

9 p.m. - "The Finest Hours" is a English documentary that traces the life and career of Sir Winston Churchill, emphasizing his role as Prime Minister during World War II. (Channel 35, ETV)

Wednesday, December 4

9 p.m. - America. Events that led to the Civil War are outlined by Alistair Cooke. (Channel 35, ETV)

1 a.m. - Tomorrow. Former members of the Kennedy Administration are scheduled to discuss JFK. (Channel 10)

Thursday, December 5

8 p.m. - The Way It Was. Billy Conn and Joe Louis relive their 1941 world heavyweight championship acknowledged as one of the greatest in the history of the division. (Channel 35, ETV)

10 p.m. - CBS Report. "Caution: Water May Be Dangerous to Your Health" probes the contamination of drinking water by industrial wastes and certain strains of bacteria. (Channel 19)

Friday, December 6

8 p.m. - "Yes, Virginia There is a Santa Claus" is a real-life Christmas story done in animation. (Channel 25)

8:30 p.m. - "Man Without a Country." Cliff Robertson stars in Edward Everett Hale's classic 1863 tale. (Channel 25)

11:30 p.m. - Wide World in Concert. Sly and the Family Stone, Donovan, Rush and Minnie Riperton perform. (Channel 25)

Special



The Woodrow Wilson Boyhood Home is one of the three houses included in the Historic Columbia's candlelight tours.

The Historic Columbia Foundation will present its annual evening Christmas Candlelight tours December 10 through 12. For this special event the foundation's three historic house restorations - the Robert Mills and Hampton-Preston houses on Blanding Street and the Woodrow Wilson Boyhood Home on Hampton Street - will be decorated as they would have been in the 1800's. Bringing to life Christmas, as it was celebrated in Columbia in the 19th century, the decorations for each of the houses were researched, designed and made by the foundation's volunteer docents and participating Columbia garden clubs. Visitors will be able to take free tours of the homes on each of the three days from 5 to 8 p.m. In addition to the special free candlelight tours, regular tours will be conducted for a small admission fee, Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, 2 to 5 p.m. The houses will be closed December 23 through 25 for the holidays.

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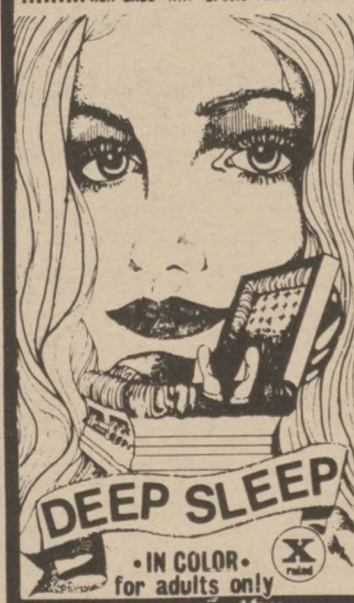
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